

**City of Kingston Arts Commission
Meeting - Thursday, September 1, 2016 – 4:30 p.m.
City Hall**

MINUTES

Attendance

Commission members in attendance were: Anne Bailey, Ruth Ann Devitt-Frank, Richard Frumess, Lara Giordano, Linda Marston-Reid and Ward Mintz.

Brenna Robinson, Director, City of Kingston Office of Economic & Community Development

Absent: Bill Carey, Alderman, 5th Ward (Common Council liaison)

Excused: Micah Blumenthal, Susie Linn

Guests: Joe Lalima & Liz Baker, Broadway Arts Gallery
David Sosa-Michaca, Roca Florists

Impromptu Guests: Nancy Donskoj, Sinterklaas and Riley Johndonnell, Artist/New Resident

Call to Order

Richard called the meeting to order at 4:30.

August Minutes

Ward moved to approve the August meeting minutes, Anne seconded, and all agreed. It was agreed that moving forward, minutes will be reviewed electronically for errors and then posted on the City's Web site before the next meeting; there will be a formal motion at the beginning of every meeting so that the approval is in the public record.

Business Cards

Susie was unable to attend the meeting, so the topic of business cards was not discussed. It will be added to the agenda for the October meeting.

Meeting Guests:

David Sosa-Michaca:

- Explained that he has seen the Latino population rise in Midtown since he and his wife began the Cinco de Mayo and Mexican Independence Day Celebrations four years ago. (Approximately 30% of the Latino population is from Mexico.) He finds Midtown to be a wonderful place to live and do business. The last festival drew 3,000 attendees.

- The discussion focused mainly on the cancellation of the two festivals because the city found the street closures to be problematic. Speculation is that the costs, such as security and DPW, associated with the closures and the events are too high.
- Brenna offered to investigate the specific reasons and report back.
- Linda suggested that the Arts Mid-Hudson funding that is currently available could help cover some costs if David and his wife could line up funding from other sources, such as local banks, as they did in the past.
- Would like to introduce key Midtown/Latino community players to the Arts Commission.

Joe Lalima & Liz Baker

- Described their new establishment as an art gallery that offers community services. Goal is to reach into the Midtown community and engage residents.
- Hope to offer workshops and gallery space and to serve as advocates for artists.
- Want to address graffiti and offer opportunities to street artists. Brenna suggested that tag areas may fit into plans for the linear park.
- Agreed to host an Arts District presentation for 35-40 guests in their space during the week of October 17.

Art Walk Update

Linda reported that 34 artists had signed up by September 1. Rick Whelan will produce the map. Volunteers are needed for various tasks including directing guests to exhibition spaces and studios, distributing post cards, manning spaces. The next organizational meeting is Thursday, September 15 at 6:30 at Savona's.

2016 Sinterklaas

Nancy Donksoj joined the meeting to report that the Sinterklaas organizers plan to extend this year's event into Midtown to engage the neighborhood in the event.

Happy Spots/Poptimism Shop, Into Yellow, You Me We

Riley Johndonnell is a new resident of Kingston, from NYC, who has a gallery on Broadway and is a featured artist in the 2016 O+ Festival. He described his goal of creating civic-minded projects that transform through art. His current project involves yellow spots that will engage and inform the community about depression. Further information can be found at www.intoyellow.com.

Next Meeting

An agenda committee was set up, consisting of Lara, Linda, and Richard, in order to produce agendas in a more timely and thorough manner than they have been up to now.

The next Arts Commission meeting will take place on **Thursday, October 11 at 4:30 p.m.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00.